

HOLY WEEK EVENING PRAYER

PREPARATION

All say

**Heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault;
by what we have done
and by what we have failed to do.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The priest pronounces the absolution.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If no priest is present the absolution is omitted and the following prayer may be said:

Merciful Lord,
grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins,
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Stand

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Praise the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

PENITENCE

THE WORD OF GOD

A PSALM OR PSALMS

Monday in Holy Week
Psalm 25

Refrain: Remember, Lord, your compassion and love.

1. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in | you I | trust; ■
let me not be put to shame;
let not my | enemies | triumph | over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be | put to | shame, ■
but let the treacherous be | shamed | and frus|trated.
- 3 Make me to know your | ways, O | Lord, ■
and | teach me | your | paths.
- 4 Lead me in your | truth and | teach me, ■
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you have I | hoped | all the day | long.
5. Remember, Lord, your com|passion and | love, ■
for they | are from | ever|lasting. *[R]*

- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth or | my trans|gressions, ■
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,
ac|cording •to your | steadfast | love.
- 7 Gracious and upright | is the | Lord; ■
therefore shall he teach | sinners | in the | way.
- 8 He will guide the humble in | doing | right ■
and | teach his | way to the | lowly.
9. All the paths of the Lord are | mercy and | truth ■
to those who keep his | covenant | and his | testimonies. *[R]*

- 10 For your name's | sake, O | Lord, ■
be merciful to my | sin, for | it is | great.
- 11 Who are those who | fear the | Lord? ■
Them will he teach in the | way that | they should | choose.
- 12 Their soul shall | dwell at | ease ■
and their offspring | shall in|herit the | land.
13. The hidden purpose of the Lord is for | those who | fear him ■
and | he will | show them his | covenant.

- 14 My eyes are ever | looking •to the | Lord, ■
for he shall pluck my | feet | out of the | net. *[R]*
- 15 Turn to me and be | gracious | to me, ■
for I am alone | and brought | very | low.
- 16 The sorrows of my heart | have in|creased; ■
O bring me | out of | my dis|tress.
17. Look upon my ad|versity and | misery ■
and for|give me | all my | sin.

- 18 Look upon my enemies, for | they are | many ■
and they bear a | violent | hatred a|gainst me.

19 O keep my soul | and de|liver me; ■
let me not be put to shame, for I have | put my | trust in | you.
20 Let integrity and | uprightness pre|serve me, ■
for my | hope has | been in | you.
21† Deliver | Israel, O | God, ■
out of | all | his | troubles.

Refrain: Remember, Lord, your compassion and love.

Psalm-Prayer

Free us, God of mercy,
from all that keeps us from you;
relieve the misery of the anxious and the ashamed
and fill us with the hope of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tuesday in Holy Week

Psalm 55: 13-24

Refrain: Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you.

13 For it was not an open enemy | that re|viled me, ■
for | then I | could have | borne it;
14 Nor was it my adversary that puffed himself | up a|gainst me, ■
for then I | would have | hid myself | from him.
15 But it was even you, one | like my|self, ■
my companion and my | own fa|miliar | friend.
16 We took sweet | counsel to|gether ■
and walked with the multitude | in the | house of | God.
17† Let death come suddenly upon them;
let them go down a|live •to the | Pit; ■
for wickedness inhabits their | dwellings, their | very | hearts. *[R]*

18 As for me, I will | call upon | God ■
and the | Lord | will de|liver me.
19 In the evening and morning and at noonday
I will pray and make my | suppli|cation, ■
and | he shall | hear my | voice.
20. He shall redeem my soul in peace
from the battle | waged a|gainst me, ■
for | many have | come up|on me.

21 God, who is enthroned of old, will hear and | bring them | down; ■
they will not repent, for they | have no | fear of | God. *[R]*
22 My companion stretched out his hands against his | friend ■
and has | broken | his | covenant;
23. His speech was softer than butter, though war was | in his | heart; ■
his words were smoother than oil, yet | are they | naked | swords.

24 Cast your burden upon the Lord and he | will sus|tain you, ■
and will not let the | righteous | fall for | ever.

Refrain: Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you.

Psalm-Prayer

Lord, in all times of fear and dread,
grant that we may so cast our burdens upon you,
that you may bear us on the holy wings of the Spirit
to the stronghold of your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wednesday in Holy Week

Psalm 88

Refrain: You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

1 O Lord, God of | my sal|vation, ■
I have cried | day and | night be|fore you.

2. Let my prayer come | into your | presence; ■
in|cline your | ear •to my | cry.

3 For my soul is | full of | troubles; ■
my life draws | near •to the | land of | death.

4. I am counted as one gone | down to the | Pit; ■
I am like | one that | has no | strength,

5 Lost a|mong the | dead, ■
like the | slain who | lie in the | grave,

6. Whom you re|member no | more, ■
for | they are cut | off •from your | hand. *[R]*

7 You have laid me in the | lowest | pit, ■
in a place of | darkness | in the a|byss.

8 Your anger lies | heavy up|on me, ■
and you have afflicted me with | all your | waves.

9. You have put my | friends | far from me ■
and made me to | be ab|horred | by them.

10 I am so fast in prison that I | cannot get | free; ■
my eyes | fail from | all my | trouble. *[R]*

11. Lord, I have called | daily up|on you; ■
I have stretched | out my | hands | to you.

12 Do you work wonders | for the | dead? ■
Will the | shades stand | up and | praise you?

13 Shall your loving-kindness be de|clared •in the | grave, ■
your faithfulness | in the | land •of des|truction?

14. Shall your wonders be | known •in the | dark ■
or your righteous deeds in the | land where | all is for|gotten? *[R]*

15 But as for me, O Lord, | I will | cry to you; ■
early in the morning my | prayer shall | come be|fore you.

16 Lord, why have you rejected my | soul? ■
Why have you | hidden your | face | from me?
17. I have been wretched and at the point of death | from my | youth; ■
I suffer your terrors | and am | no more | seen.

18 Your | wrath sweeps | over me; ■
your | horrors are | come •to des|troy me;
19 All day long they come about me like | water; ■
they close me | in on | every | side.
20 Lover and friend have | you put | far from me ■
and hid my com|panions | out of my | sight.

Refrain: You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

Psalm-Prayer

In the depths of our isolation
we cry to you, Lord God;
give light in our darkness
and bring us out of the prison of our despair
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Maundy Thursday

Psalm 42

1 As the deer | longs for the | water brooks, ■
so longs my | soul for | you, O | God.
2 My soul is athirst for God, even for the | living | God; ■
when shall I come be|fore the | presence of | God?
3. My tears have been my bread | day and | night, ■
while all day long they say to me, | ‘Where is | now your | God?’

4 Now when I think on these things, I pour | out my | soul: ■
how I went with the multitude
and led the procession | to the | house of | God,
5† With the voice of | praise and | thanksgiving, ■
among | those who | kept | holy day.

6 *Why are you so full of heaviness, / O my | soul, ■
and why are you / so dis|quieted with/in me?*

7. *O put your | trust in / God; ■
for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my | countenance, / and my | God.*

8 My soul is | heavy with|in me; ■
therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,
and from Hermon | and the | hill of | Mizar.
9 Deep calls to deep in the | thunder •of your | waterfalls; ■
all your breakers and | waves | have gone | over me.
10 The Lord will grant his loving-kindness | in the | daytime; ■
through the night his song will be with me,
a | prayer •to the | God of my | life.
11 I say to God my rock,

‘Why have | you for|gotten me, ■
and why go I so heavily, | while the | enemy op|presses me?’
12† As they crush my bones, my | enemies | mock me; ■
while all day long they say to me, | ‘Where is | now your | God?’
13 *Why are you so full of heaviness, | O my | soul, ■*
and why are you | so dis|quieted with/in me?
14 *O put your | trust in | God; ■*
for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my | countenance, | and my | God.

Psalm-Prayer

Come, creator Spirit, source of life;
sustain us when our hearts are heavy
and our wells have run dry,
for you are the Father’s gift,
with him who is our living water,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 43

1 Give judgment for me, O God,
and defend my cause against an un|godly | people; ■
deliver me from the de|ceitful | and the | wicked.
2. For you are the God of my refuge;
why have you | cast me | from you, ■
and why go I so heavily, | while the | enemy op|presses me?
3 O send out your light and your truth, that | they may | lead me, ■
and bring me to your holy | hill and | to your | dwelling,
4. That I may go to the altar of God,
to the God of my | joy and | gladness; ■
and on the lyre I will give thanks to | you, O | God my | God.
5 *Why are you so full of heaviness, | O my | soul,*
and why are you | so dis|quieted with/in me?
6 *O put your | trust in | God; ■*
for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my | countenance, | and my | God.

Psalm-Prayer

Come, creator Spirit, light and truth;
bring us to the altar of life
and renew our joy and gladness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Good Friday

Psalm 69

Refrain: Hide not your face from your servant, O Lord.

1 Save me, | O | God, ■
for the waters have come up, | even | to my | neck.

2 I sink in deep mire where there | is no | foothold; ■
I have come into deep waters | and the | flood sweeps | over me.
3. I have grown weary with crying; my | throat is | raw; ■
my eyes have failed from | looking so | long •for my | God. *[R]*

4 Those who hate me with|out •any | cause ■
are more than the | hairs | of my | head;
5 Those who would des|troy me are | mighty; ■
my enemies accuse me falsely:
must I now give | back •what I | never | stole?

6. O God, you | know my | foolishness, ■
and my | faults •are not | hidden | from you.

7 Let not those who hope in you
be put to shame through me, Lord | God of | hosts; ■
let not those who seek you be disgraced because of | me,
O | God of | Israel. *[R]*

8,9. For your sake have I suffered reproach;
shame has | covered my | face. ■
I have become a stranger to my kindred,
an alien | to my | mother's | children.

10 Zeal for your house has | eaten me | up; ■
the scorn of those who | scorn you has | fallen up|on me. *[R]*

11 I humbled my|self with | fasting, ■
but that was | turned to | my re|proach.

12 I put on | sackcloth | also ■
and be|came a | byword a|mong them.

13 Those who sit at the gate | murmur a|gainst me, ■
and the | drunkards make | songs a|bout me. *[R]*

14. But as for me, I make my prayer to | you, O | Lord; ■
at an ac|ceptable | time, O | God.

15 Answer me, O God, in the abundance | of your | mercy ■
and | with your | sure sal|vation.

16 Draw me out of the mire, | that I | sink not; ■
let me be rescued from those who hate me
and | out of the | deep | waters. *[R]*

17. Let not the water flood drown me,
neither the deep | swallow me | up; ■
let not the Pit | shut its | mouth up|on me.

18 Answer me, Lord, for your loving|kindness is | good; ■
turn to me in the | multitude | of your | mercies.

19 Hide not your | face •from your | servant; ■
be swift to answer me, | for I | am in | trouble. *[R]*

20. Draw near to my | soul •and re|deem me; ■
de|liver me be|cause of my | enemies.

21 You know my reproach, my shame and | my dis|honour; ■
my adversaries are | all | in your | sight.

22 Reproach has broken my heart; I am | full of | heaviness. ■
I looked for some to have pity, but there was no one,
neither | found I | any to | comfort me.

23. They gave me | gall to | eat, ■
and when I was thirsty, they | gave me | vinegar to | drink. *[R]*

24 Let the table before them | be a | trap ■
and their | sacred | feasts a | snare.

25 Let their eyes be darkened, that they | cannot | see, ■
and give them continual | trembling | in their | loins.

26 Pour out your indignation up|on them, ■
and let the heat of your | anger | over|take them.

27 Let their | camp be | desolate, ■
and let there be | no one to | dwell •in their | tents. *[R]*

28† For they persecute the one whom | you have | stricken, ■
and increase the sorrows of | him whom | you have | pierced.

29 Lay to their charge | guilt upon | guilt, ■
and let them not re|ceive your | vindi|cation.

30. Let them be wiped out of the | book of the | living ■
and not be | written a|mong the | righteous. *[R]*

31 As for me, I am | poor •and in | misery; ■
your saving help, O | God, will | lift me | up.

32. I will praise the name of | God •with a | song; ■
I will proclaim his | greatness with | thanksgiving.

33 This will please the Lord more than an | offering of | oxen, ■
more than | bulls with | horns and | hooves.

34 The humble shall | see •and be | glad; ■
you who seek | God, your | heart shall | live. *[R]*

35 For the Lord | listens •to the | needy, ■
and his own who are imprisoned | he does | not des|pise.

36 Let the heavens and the | earth | praise him, ■
the seas and | all that | moves | in them;

37 For God will save Zion and rebuild the | cities of | Judah; ■
they shall live there and | have it | in pos|session.

38 The children of his servants | shall in|herit it, ■
and they that love his | name shall | dwell there|in.

Refrain: Hide not your face from your servant, O Lord.

Psalm-Prayer

Thirsting on the cross,
your Son shared the reproach of the oppressed
and carried the sins of all;
in him, O God, may the despairing find you,
the afflicted gain life
and the whole creation know its true king,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Easter Eve
Psalm 116

Refrain: Gracious is the Lord and righteous.

1. I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my | suppli|cation; ■
because he inclined his ear to me
on the | day I | called to | him.
2 The snares of death encompassed me;
the pains of | hell took | hold of me; ■
by grief and | sorrow | was I | held.
3. Then I called upon the | name •of the | Lord: ■
'O Lord, I | beg you, de|liver my | soul.
4 Gracious is the | Lord and | righteous; ■
our | God is | full of compassion. *[R]*
5 The Lord watches | over the | simple; ■
I was brought very | low | and he | saved me.
6 Turn again to your rest, | O my | soul, ■
for the | Lord •has been | gracious to | you.
7 For you have delivered my | soul from | death, ■
my eyes from | tears •and my | feet from | falling.
8. I will walk be|fore the | Lord ■
in the | land | of the | living.

Refrain: Gracious is the Lord and righteous.

Psalm-Prayer

God of power and mercy,
through your Son's passion and resurrection
you have freed us from the bonds of death
and the anguish of separation from you.
Be ever with us on our pilgrimage;
then we shall sing rather than weep.
Keep our feet from stumbling,
so that we may be able to follow you
until we come to eternal rest.

Part II: 9-17

Refrain: I will fulfil my vows to the Lord.

9 I believed that I should perish
for I was | sorely | troubled; ■
and I said in my alarm, | 'Everyone | is a | liar.'
10. How shall I re|pay the | Lord ■
for all the benefits | he has | given to | me?
11 I will lift up the | cup of sal|vation ■
and | call upon the | name •of the | Lord.
12 I will fulfil my | vows •to the | Lord ■
in the | presence of | all his | people. *[R]*
13. Precious in the | sight •of the | Lord ■

is the | death •of his | faithful | servants.
14 O Lord, | I am your | servant, ■
your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have | freed me | from my | bonds.
15 I will offer to you a | sacrifice of | thanksgiving ■
and | call upon the | name •of the | Lord.
16 I will fulfil my | vows •to the | Lord ■
in the | presence of | all his | people,
17† In the courts of the | house •of the | Lord, ■
in the midst of you, O Je[rusalem. | Alle|luia.

Refrain: I will fulfil my vows to the Lord.

Psalm-Prayer

Father,
precious in your sight is the death of your saints,
but precious above all is the love
with which Christ suffered to redeem us.
In this life we fill up in our own flesh
what is still lacking in the sufferings of Christ;
accept this as our sacrifice of praise,
and we shall even now taste the joy of the new Jerusalem.

A CANTICLE

A SONG OF LAMENTATION *Lamentations 1: 12, 16a, b; 3: 19, 21-26, 31-33*

Refrain: Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.

1 Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? ■
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
2 Which was brought upon me, ■
which the Lord inflicted
on the day of his fierce anger.
3 For these things I weep;
my eyes flow with tears; ■
for a comforter is far from me,
one to revive my courage.
4 Remember my affliction and my bitterness, ■
the wormwood and the gall!
5 But this I call to mind, ■
and therefore I have hope:
6 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, ■
his mercies never come to an end;
7 They are new every morning; ■
great is your faithfulness.
8 ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ■
‘therefore I will hope in him.’
9 The Lord is good to those who wait for him, ■
to the soul that seeks him.

- 10 It is good that we should wait quietly ■
for the salvation of the Lord.
- 11 For the Lord will not reject for ever; ■
though he causes grief, he will have compassion,
- 12 According to the abundance of his steadfast love; ■
for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Refrain: Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.

A READING OR READINGS

One or two readings as appointed

Monday in Holy Week

Lamentations 2: 8-19

The Lord determined to lay in ruins
the wall of daughter Zion;
he stretched the line;
he did not withhold his hand from destroying;
he caused rampart and wall to lament;
they languish together.

Her gates have sunk into the ground;
he has ruined and broken her bars;
her king and princes are among the nations;
guidance is no more,
and her prophets obtain
no vision from the Lord.

The elders of daughter Zion
sit on the ground in silence;
they have thrown dust on their heads
and put on sackcloth;
the young girls of Jerusalem
have bowed their heads to the ground.

My eyes are spent with weeping;
my stomach churns;
my bile is poured out on the ground
because of the destruction of my people,
because infants and babes faint
in the streets of the city.

They cry to their mothers,
'Where is bread and wine?'
as they faint like the wounded
in the streets of the city,
as their life is poured out
on their mothers' bosom.

What can I say for you, to what compare you,
O daughter Jerusalem?

To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you,
O virgin daughter Zion?
For vast as the sea is your ruin;
who can heal you?

Your prophets have seen for you
false and deceptive visions;
they have not exposed your iniquity
to restore your fortunes,
but have seen oracles for you
that are false and misleading.

All who pass along the way
clap their hands at you;
they hiss and wag their heads
at daughter Jerusalem;
'Is this the city that was called
the perfection of beauty,
the joy of all the earth?'

All your enemies
open their mouths against you;
they hiss, they gnash their teeth,
they cry: 'We have devoured her!
Ah, this is the day we longed for;
at last we have seen it!'

The Lord has done what he purposed,
he has carried out his threat;
as he ordained long ago,
he has demolished without pity;
he has made the enemy rejoice over you,
and exalted the might of your foes.

Cry aloud to the Lord!
O wall of daughter Zion!
Let tears stream down like a torrent
day and night!
Give yourself no rest,
your eyes no respite!

Arise, cry out in the night,
at the beginning of the watches!
Pour out your heart like water
before the presence of the Lord!
Lift your hands to him
for the lives of your children,
who faint for hunger
at the head of every street.

Colossians 1: 18-23

He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

Tuesday in Holy Week

Lamentations 3: 40-51

Let us test and examine our ways,
and return to the Lord.
Let us lift up our hearts as well as our hands
to God in heaven.
We have transgressed and rebelled,
and you have not forgiven.

You have wrapped yourself with anger and pursued us,
killing without pity;
you have wrapped yourself with a cloud
so that no prayer can pass through.
You have made us filth and rubbish
among the peoples.

All our enemies
have opened their mouths against us;
panic and pitfall have come upon us,
devastation and destruction.
My eyes flow with rivers of tears
because of the destruction of my people.

My eyes will flow without ceasing,
without respite,
until the Lord from heaven
looks down and sees.
My eyes cause me grief
at the fate of all the young women in my city.

Galatians 6: 11-18

See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which[a] the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Wednesday in Holy Week

Isaiah 63: 1-9

‘Who is this that comes from Edom,
from Bozrah in garments stained crimson?
Who is this so splendidly robed,
marching in his great might?’
‘It is I, announcing vindication,
mighty to save.’
‘Why are your robes red,
and your garments like theirs who tread the wine press?’
‘I have trodden the wine press alone,
and from the peoples no one was with me;
I trod them in my anger
and trampled them in my wrath;
their juice spattered on my garments,
and stained all my robes.
For the day of vengeance was in my heart,
and the year for my redeeming work had come.
I looked, but there was no helper;
I stared, but there was no one to sustain me;
so my own arm brought me victory,
and my wrath sustained me.
I trampled down peoples in my anger,
I crushed them in my wrath,
and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.’
I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us,
and the great favour to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
For he said, ‘Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely’;
and he became their saviour
in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Revelation 14: 18 - 15: 4

Then another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over fire, and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, ‘Use your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.’ So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and gathered the vintage of the earth, and he threw it into the great wine press of the wrath of God. And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the wine press, as high as a horse’s bridle, for a distance of about two hundred miles.

Then I saw another portent in heaven, great and amazing: seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is ended. And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

‘Great and amazing are your deeds,
Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations!
Lord, who will not fear
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your judgements have been revealed.’

Mundy Thursday

Exodus 11

The Lord said to Moses, ‘I will bring one more plague upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go from here; indeed, when he lets you go, he will drive you away. Tell the people that every man is to ask his neighbour and every woman is to ask her neighbour for objects of silver and gold.’ The Lord gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, Moses himself was a man of great importance in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh’s officials, and in the sight of the people.

Moses said, ‘Thus says the Lord: About midnight I will go out through Egypt. Every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne to the firstborn of the female slave who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the livestock. Then there will be a loud cry throughout the whole land of Egypt, such as has never been nor will ever be again. But not a dog shall growl at any of the Israelites—not at people, not at animals—so that you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. Then all these officials of yours shall come down to me, and bow low to me, saying, “Leave us, you and all the people who follow you.” After that I will leave.’ And in hot anger he left Pharaoh.

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Pharaoh will not listen to you, in order that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.’ Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh; but the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land.

Ephesians 2: 11-18

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by those who are called ‘the circumcision’—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Good Friday

Lamentations 5: 15-22

The joy of our hearts has ceased;
our dancing has been turned to mourning.
The crown has fallen from our head;
woe to us, for we have sinned!
Because of this our hearts are sick,
because of these things our eyes have grown dim:
because of Mount Zion, which lies desolate;
jackals prowl over it.

But you, O Lord, reign for ever;
your throne endures to all generations.
Why have you forgotten us completely?
Why have you forsaken us these many days?
Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored;
renew our days as of old—
unless you have utterly rejected us,
and are angry with us beyond measure.

John 19: 13-30

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."' Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'
And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Easter Eve

Job 19: 21-27

Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends,
for the hand of God has touched me!
Why do you, like God, pursue me,
never satisfied with my flesh?
'O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock for ever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!

1 John 5: 5-12

Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. There are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree. If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

MAGNIFICAT *The Song of the Virgin Mary* *Luke 1: 46-55*

*Refrain: By your life laid down on the Cross, you set your people free,
we look to you to save and help us.*

1 My soul proclaims the | greatness · of the | Lord, ■
my spirit re joices · in | God my | Saviour,
2 who has looked with favour on his | lowly | servant; ..
from this day all gene|rations · will | call me | blessèd;
3† the Almighty has done | great things | for me ■
and | holy | is his | name.
4 God has mercy on | those who | fear him, ■
from gene|ration · to | gene|ration.
5 The Lord has shown | strength · with his | arm ■
and scattered the | proud in | their con|ceit,
6 casting down the mighty | from their | thrones ■
and | lifting | up the | lowly.
7 God has filled the hungry with | good | things ■
and sent the | rich a|way | empty.

8 He has come to the aid of his | servant | Israel ■
to re|member · the | promise of | mercy,
9 The promise | made to · our | forebears, ■
to Abraham | and his | children · for | ever.

*Refrain: By your life laid down on the Cross, you set your people free,
we look to you to save and help us.*

PRAYER

Kneel
Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Let us pray that we may take up Christ's cross daily
and follow him in his way.

INTERCESSIONS

Giver of life, we wait with you to offer the hope
that comes from the cross to earth's darkest places.
Where pain is deep and affection is denied:
let love break through.

Where justice is destroyed,
let sensitivity to right spring up.
Where hope is crucified,
let faith persist.

Where peace has no chance,
let passion live on.

Where truth is trampled underfoot,
let the struggle continue.

Where fear paralyzes,
let forgiveness break through.

Eternal God, reach into the silent darkness of our souls
with the radiance of the cross.
O you who are the bearer of all pain,
have mercy on us.

Giver of life,
have mercy on us.

Merciful God,
have mercy on us. Amen.

THANKSGIVINGS

Gracious God,
you have done so much for us,
giving us a world rich in wonder
and filling our lives with so much that is special.
Receive our thanks.

But above all we come to thank you
for your most precious gift of all -
the great love you have shown to us in Christ.
Receive our thanks.

In him you came and lived amongst us,
fully part of our world.
Through him you revealed your grace, your mercy,
your will, your kingdom.
By him you identified yourself
with the sin and suffering of our world,
opening the way through his death and resurrection
to forgiveness and eternal life.
Receive our thanks.

Gracious God,
you have given to us without counting the cost,
not just a little but all.
Your Son emptied yourself,
taking the form of a servant,
and was sanctified for our sakes.
Receive our thanks.

And the wonder is you ask so little in return -
you make no extortionate demands,
you set no stringent conditions to your love,
you ask simply that we love you in return.
Receive our thanks.

Gracious God,
teach us to offer you our willing and joyful discipleship,
and to play our part in working for your kingdom.
**Receive our thanks,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

CONCLUDING PRAYER

**May we never boast of anything
except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by which the world has been crucified to us,
and us to the world.
In his name we pray. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

The Collect of the Day *may be said or the prayer which follows these Collects*
Monday in Holy Week

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy,
but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of his cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tuesday in Holy Week

O God,
who by the passion of your blessed Son made
an instrument of shameful death
to be for us the means of life:
Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ,
that we may gladly suffer pain and loss
for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Wednesday in Holy Week

Lord God,
whose blessed Son our Saviour
gave his back to the smiters,
and did not hide his face from shame:
Give us grace to endure the sufferings
of this present time,
with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Maundy Thursday

Almighty God,
at the Last Supper your Son Jesus Christ
washed the disciples' feet
and commanded them to love one another.
Give us humility and obedience to be servants of others
as he was the servant of all;
who gave up his life and died for us,
yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Good Friday

Almighty Father,
Look with mercy on this your family
for which our Lord Jesus Christ
was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of sinners
and to suffer death upon the cross;

who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Easter Eve

Grant, Lord,
that we who are baptized into the death
of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
may continually put to death our evil desires
and be buried with him;
and that through the grave and gate of death
we may pass to our joyful resurrection;
through his merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

or

God of love,
as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,
so may we give ourselves to you,
living according to your holy will.
Keep our feet firmly in the way
where Christ leads us;
make our mouths speak the truth
that Christ teaches us;
fill our bodies with the life
that is Christ within us.
In his holy name we pray. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

or

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say
Our Father, who art in heaven:
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE ENDING

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross,
set us free to serve him with joy. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

BLESSING